REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims of record is respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1-21, 23-61, and 63-85 are pending in the application.

Premature Finality of the Office Action

The Finality of the outstanding Office Action is premature as claim 27 (rejected in the outstanding Office Action) was not rejected in the previous Office Action mailed December 28, 2005. Applicant thus requests that the finality of the outstanding Office Action be withdrawn.

Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-8, 14-16, 18, 20-27, 28, 29, 35-37, 39-48, 54-56, 58, 60-69, 75-77, 80, and 81-85 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Othmer et al (U.S. Pat. 6,167,358 hereinafter "Othmer") in view of Wygodny et al (U.S. Pat. 6,282,701 hereinafter "Wygodny"). Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references fail to teach or suggest each of the elements of the claims. Thus Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

For example, independent claim 1, as amended, now requires "providing, in response to said user identification information, at least one bug tracking related menu, the contents of which vary based on the user's role in the software development process." Independent claims 21 and 61 and dependent claim 42, as amended, also have a similar limitation. Independent claim 81, as amended, now requires "providing, in response to

- 23 -

said user information from the first user, at least a first bug tracking related menu, <u>the</u> <u>contents of which vary based on the first user's role in the software development process</u>; ... providing, in response to said user identification information from the second user, at least a second bug tracking related menu, different from the first bug tracking menu, <u>the</u> <u>contents of which vary based on the second user's role in the software development</u> <u>process</u>." Applicants submit that these limitations are not taught or suggested by the combination of Othmer and Wygodny.

Othmer does not teach "at least one bug tracking related menu, the contents of which vary based on the user's role in the software development process," and to allegedly compensate for this deficiency, the Office Action introduces Wygodny. Addition of Wygodny, however, does not cure this defect.

The cited portions of Wygodny teach "a developer 112 uses a program called the BugTrapper analyzer 106 to create a file called a trace control information (TCI) file 120. The TCI file 120 contains instructions that specify what information is to be collected from a program to be traced." Wygodny reveals no teaching, in the cited portion or otherwise, of the claimed "a menu, the contents of which vary based on the user's role in the software development process." While Wygodny may disclose providing menus for use by a developer, Wygodny does not teach those menus "vary[ing] based on the user's role in the software development process."

The Office Action appears to allege that the TCI file is a menu tailored to a user's role (Applicants request clarification if this is not the case). If this apparent allegation is

accepted, the TCI file is not a menu. Wygodny teaches that the TCI file "contains instructions that specify what information is to be collected from a program to be traced" (Col. 5, lines 29-30). Wygodny also teaches that "[t]he TCI indicates to the client-side trace library 125 what portions of the client 102 to trace" (Col. 7, lines 16-17). These descriptions from Wygodny do not describe menus, they describe a set of instructions for a trace program. A set of instructions for a trace program is not a menu. There are no teachings in Wygodny that indicate that the TCI file is a menu.

Therefore, even if the teachings of Wygodny are combined with those of Othmer, the combination fails to teach "at least one bug tracking related menu, the contents of which vary based on the user's role in the software development process."

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 21, 42, 61, and 81, as well as claims 2-20, 23-40, 43-46, 63-80, and 82-85 respectively dependent therefrom.

Applicant also respectfully submits that the cited combination of Othmer and Wygodny does not teach or suggest all limitations of claim 41 either. For example, claim 41 requires "processing user identification information including a password, wherein the processing includes determining the aspects of a system that a user is entitled to access based on a user's role in the development process."

The Office Action alleges that Othmer teaches the underlined portion of this limitation, but Applicants submit that the cited "the server uses the user ID to associate static information with a particular client machine and to keep a record about a particular

user" in Othmer does not teach the claimed "determining the aspects of a system that a user is entitled to access based on a user's role in the development process." Othmer teaches using a user ID, but fails to teach or suggest "determining the aspects of a system that a user is entitled to access based on a user's role in the development process."

According to Othmer, "...the server generates and transmits a new user ID back to the client computer. The client computer then attaches this user ID to future black box information sent to the server. The server uses the user ID to associate static information with a particular client machine and keep a record about a particular user...The server stores the dynamic black box data ... tagged with the user ID..." (Col. 13, line 56 – Col. 14, line 13.) Nothing indicates that the server of Othmer "determin[es] the aspects of a system that a user is entitled to access based on a user's role in the development process" as a part of "processing user identification information."

For at least this reason, Applicants request that rejection of independent claim 41 and claims 42-60 dependent therefrom be withdrawn.

Claims 9-13, 30-34, 49-53 and 70-74 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Othmer and Wygodny in view of Johndrew et al. (U.S. Publication no. 2001/0049697, hereinafter "Johndrew"). Applicants submit that these applied references fail to disclose or suggest the claimed invention set forth in the rejected claims.

All of the comments made above with respect to base independent claims 1, 21, 41 and 61 apply equally to dependent claims 9-13, 30-34, 49-53 and 70-74, respectively.

Further, with respect to these claims, Johndrew fails to remedy the above described deficiencies of Othmer and Wygodny. Moreover, Johndrew does not, as page 18 of the Office Action suggests, disclose a method of sorting bugs "wherein said sorting criteria includes video game stage or a video game character or the status of the bug or the type of bug or the reported date of the bug." Johndrew does not teach allowing a user to sort bugs based on a video game stage, a video game character, the status of a bug, or a reported date of a bug. Under Johndrew's teachings, a user would, for example, have no use in searching for "the reported date of a bug," since a user would not care when a bug was reported. The date of a software patch fixing the bug, as Johndrew discloses, is not the same as the reported date of the bug. The former is useful to a user, while the latter is of practical use for a developer.

Claims 17, 38, 57 and 78 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Othmer and Wygodny in view of admitted prior art (applicants' specification, page 2, lines 9-11, hereinafter "prior art"). Claims 19, 40, 59 and 79 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Othmer in view of Tse (U.S. Patent No. 5,742,754, hereinafter "Tse"). Applicants note that many of the above-indicated dependent claims recite additional specific features which are not disclosed or even remotely suggested by the prior art. Since the independent base claims of each of these dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above, there is no present need to address any of these issues in detail.

Neither the admitted prior art nor Tse resolve the above described deficiencies of the

Othmer/Wydogny combination.

Change of Correspondence Address

Applicants filed a Change of Correspondence Address Application on July 14,

2006 (copy attached). The outstanding Office Action mailed Sept. 21, 2006 (i.e. after the

filing of the Change of Correspondence Address Application) was mailed to the

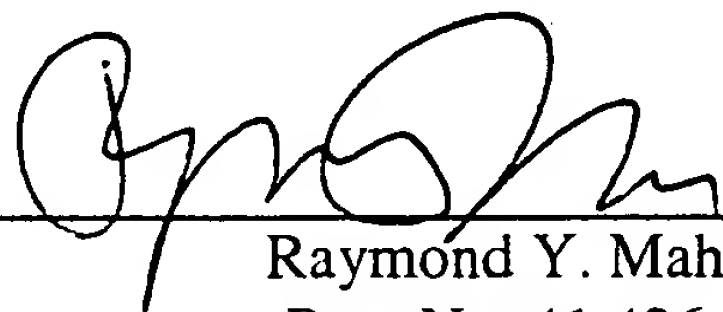undersigned's former address. Please correct the records of the Patent Office accordingly.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that all the claims are in condition for

allowance, and an action to that end is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain to be

resolved, the Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number

identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____
Raymond Y. Mah
Reg. No. 41,426

RYM:sl
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

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